

# The Iberian Peninsula

## READ TO DISCOVER

1. How have past events affected Spain?
2. How is Portugal both similar to and different from Spain?

## WHY IT MATTERS

Spain's tourist industry is one of the largest in the world.

Use [CNNfyi.com](http://CNNfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn about historical and cultural sites in Spain or neighboring Portugal.

## DEFINE

autonomy

cork

## LOCATE

Madrid

Balearic Islands

Strait of Gibraltar

Barcelona

Bay of Biscay

Lisbon

Porto



## Southern Europe and the Balkans: Physical-Political



## internet connect

GO TO: [go.hrw.com](http://go.hrw.com)

KEYWORD: SW3 CH16

FOR: Web sites about southern Europe and the Balkans



# Spain

Spain and Portugal share the Iberian Peninsula, or Iberia. Spain, southern Europe's largest country in area, covers about 85 percent of Iberia. Much of Spain is surrounded by water. At one time, this feature helped make Spain a great seafaring country.

**History and Government** The early history of Spain is similar to that of most of the Mediterranean region. Various Mediterranean peoples, including the Romans, have ruled the area. In the A.D. 700s an Arabic people called the Moors invaded Iberia from North Africa. The Moors brought the Islamic religion, new irrigation techniques, and new crops to Iberia. They also built universities and brought many crafts and trades. However, Christian rulers eventually forced the Moors out of Spain. In 1492 the Moors surrendered their last stronghold there—Granada in southern Spain.

During the 1500s Spain used its strong navy to build a worldwide empire. At its peak, the Spanish Empire included most of Central and South America. Spain also ruled what is now the southwestern United States. In addition, the empire included small colonies in Africa and islands in the Caribbean and Pacific. However, Spain had lost almost all its overseas empire by the end of the 1800s. During the 1800s the country was also shaken by wars. Spaniards who wanted a monarchy fought those who wanted a more democratic government. The struggle for power continued in the 1900s and led to a terrible civil war in 1936. The democratic forces lost the war. A dictator, Francisco Franco, then ruled Spain from 1939 to 1975. After Franco's death Spain quickly made a transition to a democratic system of government.

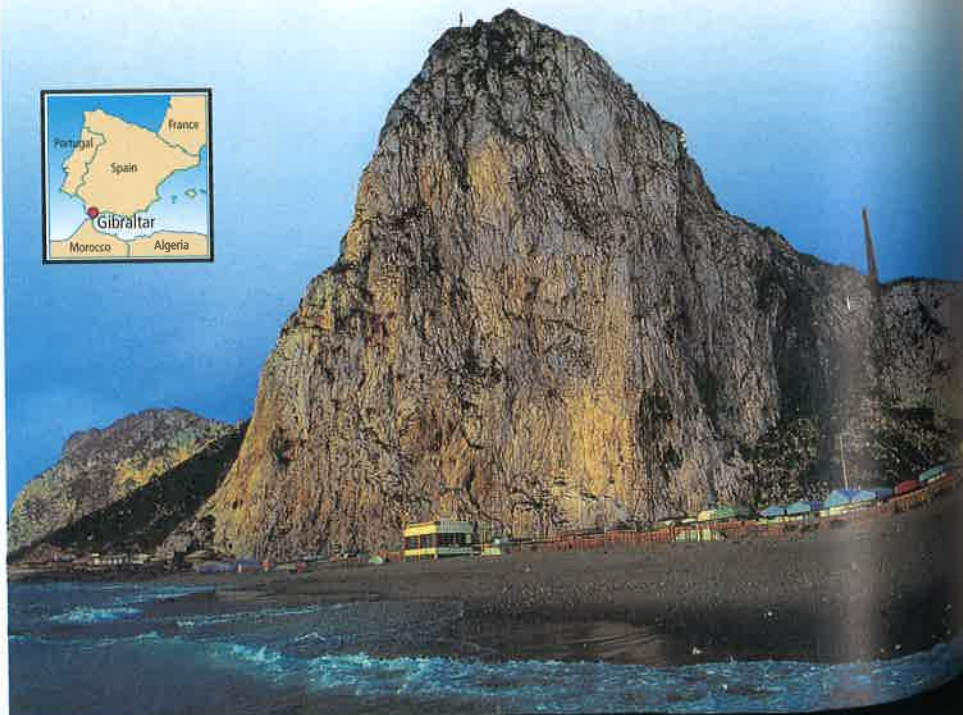
Although Spain's global empire is gone, the country retains control over the Canary Islands in the Atlantic and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean. Two small ports in North Africa are also part of Spain. Spain has spread its language and religion around the world. More than 400 million people speak Spanish. Many live in Mexico, Central America, and South America.

Today Spain is a constitutional monarchy with a king and elected legislature. Spain has a number of regions that are culturally or historically distinct.



Some 14,000 years ago, people painted bison, a deer, and horses on a cave ceiling near what is now Altamira, Spain. Today the paintings are treasured as some of the world's greatest artworks.

*The Rock of Gibraltar towers over the Mediterranean Sea near the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula. Captured by British forces from Spain in the early 1700s, Gibraltar is now a British colony and important naval base. It is strategically located near the entrance to the Mediterranean from the Atlantic Ocean.*





#### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Thousands of festivals take place across Spain each year and are important events in local towns and communities. Many festivals in Barcelona feature gegants, or "giants." These large figures are actually men on stilts underneath elaborate costumes. The gegants often represent biblical or historical figures. **Why might festivals like this one be important to a culture's identity?**

In the past, some of these regions were independent kingdoms. After Franco's death in 1975, some wished to be independent again. To prevent this, Spain's central government gave the country's 17 regions different levels of **autonomy**, or self-government. These regional governments make decisions about health and social programs, urban planning, education, and other local issues. The central government still controls policies for the whole country, such as foreign relations and national defense.

✓ **READING CHECK: Human Systems** How did Spain spread the Spanish language and Roman Catholicism around the world?

**People and Culture** Nearly all people in Spain today are Roman Catholic. About 75 percent speak Castilian Spanish. Castilian is a dialect from the Castile region around Madrid, the country's capital. Spain's other languages include Basque and Catalan, which are both spoken in regions near the Pyrenees.

Spain's villages and cities have many open spaces for people to meet. The plaza is a common feature in Spanish towns. A plaza is a square surrounded by public buildings, such as a church, a marketplace, and government offices. These squares serve as social gathering places, particularly on warm evenings and weekends. Plazas are also found throughout Central and South America and much of southern Europe.

Moorish influences can still be seen in Spain. For example, Arabic architectural styles are common in many towns, particularly in southern Spain. These styles include horseshoe-shaped arches and geometric decorations. Many natural features and settlements with Moorish place-names still dot the Spanish landscape. (See Geography for Life: Arabic Place-Names in Iberia.)



**INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD** In mostly Roman Catholic Spain the church has long played an important role in the educational system. For example, many students attend Catholic schools. However, in recent decades the government has increased its control over Spain's private religious schools. **How does this classroom compare to yours? Do you think parochial schools are as common in your community?**

### Major Exports of Spain and Portugal

Spain	Portugal
machinery, motor vehicles, foodstuffs, other consumer goods	clothing and footwear, machinery, chemicals, cork and paper products, hides

Source: Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2000*

**INTERPRETING THE CHART** Spain's most important exports are motor vehicles and a wide range of foodstuffs, such as fresh fruits, olive oil, vegetables, and nuts. Portugal's leading exports include clothing, footwear, and cork. What does the information in this chart suggest about the level of development in Spain and Portugal?

**Economy** Spain manufactures a variety of products. These goods include textiles and clothing, footwear, ships, and automobiles. The country is also a member of the European Union (EU). Tourism is an important part of Spain's economy. Warm sunny weather and beautiful scenery attract tourists to areas like the Costa del Sol in southern Spain. Many people also visit the Pyrenees and the Balearic (ba-lee-AR-ik) Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Famous historical and cultural sites are found throughout the country. Although tourism is a major source of income, it has also caused problems. For example, tourism has brought more traffic, pollution, and overbuilding to scenic areas.

Agriculture also plays a major role in Spain's economy. The country is a leading producer of olive oil and wine. Farmers also grow many crops that the Moors brought to the region, such as citrus fruits. The area around Valencia is particularly famous for producing oranges. Other crops, such as corn, potatoes, and tomatoes, were first imported from Spain's American colonies. Spain shipped these crops to many places in its empire. Now crops that were originally American are common in Europe and other parts of the world.

**Issues and Challenges** Spain's economy has been growing rapidly over the last several decades. This growth further improved when the country joined the EC in 1986. Continued economic development is one of Spain's goals. However, the country still has one of Western Europe's highest unemployment rates.

Immigration has also become an issue. Morocco lies across the Strait of Gibraltar just about 8 miles (13 km) from Spain. Many North Africans cross the strait to find work in Spain and other European countries. They usually move to the big cities, such as Barcelona, Spain's main port. However, many of these immigrants do not find jobs.

Spain also faces political challenges. As you read earlier, Spain's regions have a certain amount of autonomy. Several of those regions used to have active independence movements. However, since the regions received more autonomy, some of those movements have quieted. However, the Basques still work to make their region a separate country. Catalonia borders France and the Mediterranean Sea. The Basque Country lies along the Bay of Biscay and the Pyrenees in northern Spain. The Basques have ancient origins. Their ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Europe. The ancient Basque language seems to be unrelated to any other European language. Some Basques have turned to violence in an effort to win independence from Spain. One group, known as ETA, has killed many government officials and others. Non-Basques in the region, as well as many Basques, oppose ETA and their violent struggle for Basque independence.

✓ **READING CHECK: Human Systems** How has Spain addressed the desire for independence in some of its regions?

## Portugal

Portugal lies in the western part of Iberia and faces the Atlantic. Both Portugal and Spain have many cultural similarities.

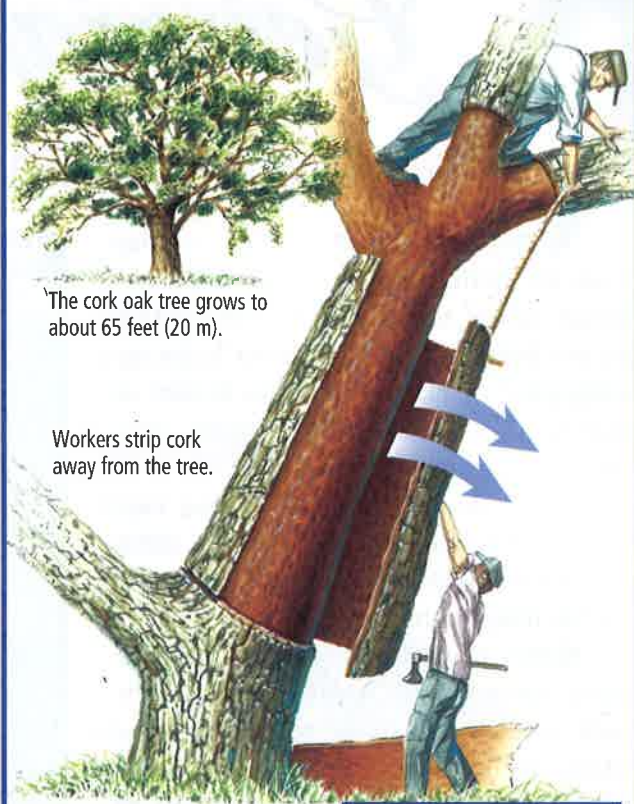
**History and Culture** Much of Portugal's history closely mirrors Spain's. Portugal, too, was under the control of Rome and then the Moors. Like Spanish, the Portuguese language developed from Latin, the language of the Romans. Portuguese also contains many words from Arabic. These words became part of the language when Moors ruled the region. After the Moors were driven from Iberia, the Portuguese built a powerful colonial empire. That empire included parts of Africa, Asia, and South America. Portugal's former colonies include Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, and part of Timor, an island in Southeast Asia. The Atlantic islands of Madeira and the Azores are all that remain of the old empire.

**Economy** Like Spain, after losing its empire Portugal entered a period of economic decline and limited personal freedoms. Now Portugal's government is democratic, and its economy, helped by membership in the EU, is growing. The country's new freeways, car factories, and high-speed trains reflect this growth. However, even the moderate increase in prosperity has drawn immigrants to Portugal, particularly from North Africa. They crowd into Portugal's cities, which include Lisbon and Porto. Lisbon is the country's largest city and capital. Porto, the second-largest city, is a major seaport in the north.

As in Spain, tourism is important to Portugal. The country is also the world's leading **cork** producer. Cork is a bark that is stripped from the trunks of cork oaks. These trees grow in southern Europe and North Africa. Some types of insulation and flooring are made from cork. However, most cork is used to seal wine and other bottles. Portugal, along with other Mediterranean countries, is a major producer and exporter of wine.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How are the histories of Spain and Portugal similar?

## The Cork Industry



The cork oak tree grows to about 65 feet (20 m).

Workers strip cork away from the tree.

Bark is removed from the tree but will grow back over the years.



Cork products

Much of Portugal is covered with cork oak trees, which provide the basis for the country's cork industry. Some trees can provide cork for more than 100 years.

## Section 1

# Review

### Define

autonomy, cork

### Working with Sketch Maps

On a map of southern Europe and the Balkans that you draw or that your teacher provides, label Spain, Portugal, Madrid, Balearic Islands, Strait of Gibraltar, Barcelona, Bay of Biscay, Lisbon, and Porto. Use the description in the text to shade in the Basque Country.

### Reading for the Main Idea

- Places and Regions** How did Roman and Moorish rule in Spain and Portugal influence the countries' modern cultural landscapes?
- Places and Regions** How has Spain influenced the diffusion of foods between the Americas and Europe?
- Human Systems** How is immigration affecting urbanization in Spain and Portugal?

### Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Why has crossing the Strait of Gibraltar been an important migration route?

go.  
hrrw  
.com

**Homework  
Practice  
Online**

Keyword: SW3 HP16

### Organizing What You Know

- Copy the chart below. Use it to show how economic development, urbanization, and environmental change are shaping Spain.



## Section 2

# The Italian Peninsula

### READ TO DISCOVER

1. How has Italy's history affected its culture?
2. What is Italy like today?

### WHY IT MATTERS

Italian Americans are a large ethnic group in the United States. Use [cnnfyi.com](http://cnnfyi.com) or other **current events** sources to learn about the history and culture of Italian American communities in this country.

### IDENTIFY

Renaissance

### DEFINE

microstates

### LOCATE

Sicily

Sardinia

Alps

Rome

### Locate, continued

Florence

Genoa

Venice

Milan

Turin

Po River

Bologna

Trieste

Naples

## History and Culture

Italy occupies the boot-shaped peninsula that stretches southward from the middle of Europe into the Mediterranean Sea. Italy also includes two large islands, Sicily and Sardinia. To the north, Italy is separated from the rest of Europe by the Alps. Despite this barrier, Italy has influenced European culture for more than 2,000 years. Italians have created some of the world's most beloved architecture, literature, music, painting, and sculpture.

**History** The Etruscans created one of the earliest civilizations to occupy the Italian Peninsula. Later, the Romans set up a republic in central Italy about 500 B.C. Over time the Romans built a huge empire. This empire stretched across much of Europe, North Africa, and Southwest Asia. The city of Rome lay



In A.D. 79 Mount Vesuvius near present-day Naples erupted and completely buried three Roman towns in volcanic ash. In Pompeii, the largest of the towns, archaeologists have found the remains of more than 2,000 victims.



### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

*The Colosseum in Rome is just one example of the many engineering marvels built by the Romans. Officially dedicated in A.D. 80, the Colosseum was used to stage battles between soldiers, slaves, and wild animals and could hold some 50,000 spectators. How do you think the Colosseum influenced the architecture of modern sporting arenas today?*

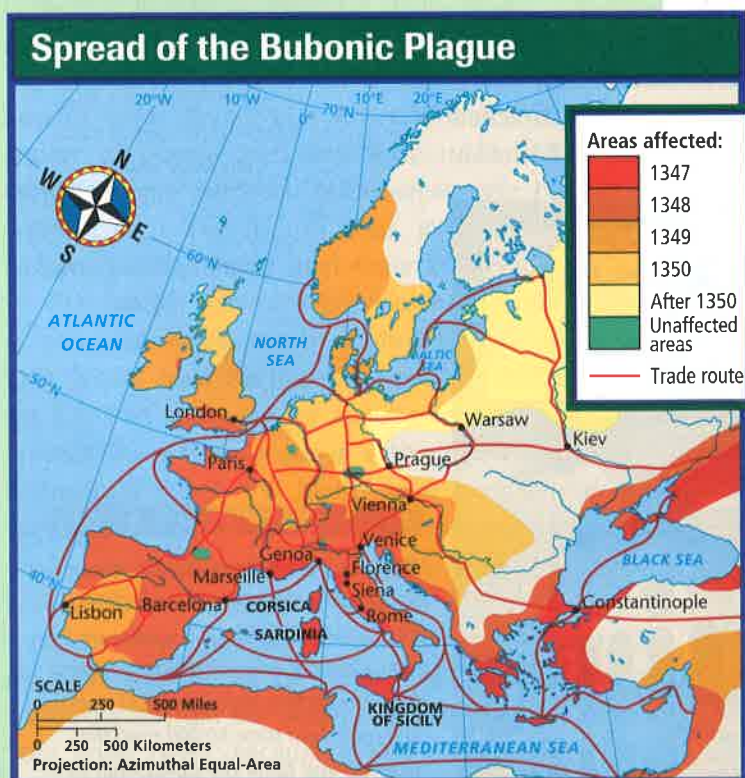
## The Plague

A terrible plague, which Europeans came to call the Black Death, swept across Europe in the mid-1300s. Trading ships brought it from Asia to Italian and other southern European ports in 1347. Infected fleas living on rats spread one form, bubonic plague. A second form, pneumonic plague, could also be spread by infected people. Together the two forms spread across almost all of Europe. (See the map.)

A few areas were spared, but the plague killed as many as 30 million people. That total would have been about a third of Europe's population. The many deaths disrupted people's ways of life. Workers, in short supply as so many died, demanded higher wages. Tensions between upper and lower classes increased. In addition, the power and influence of the Roman Catholic Church declined. Some people—terrified by the spreading death—turned to other beliefs and practices for comfort and protection.

**Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How might modern technologies allow disease to spread even more rapidly today?

**INTERPRETING THE MAP** How did trade routes influence the diffusion of the plague? What effects did the plague have on the regions into which it spread?



at its center. It was one of the first cities to have more than 1 million people. Roman culture, including language, laws, architecture, and urban lifestyles, diffused throughout the empire. The Romans also helped spread Christianity throughout Europe. The Western Roman Empire collapsed in the A.D. 400s. Italy remained a mix of separate states and cities for long afterward.

The influences of Roman law, literature, and language can still be seen in many European countries. For example, all the Romance languages—including Catalan, French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish—are derived from Rome's Latin language. Rome is also the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. The seat of the church is at Vatican City, an independent country in the heart of Rome.

During the Middle Ages many Italian cities grew rich from trade. These great cities included Florence, Genoa, and Venice. During this time, northern Italy was one of the wealthiest and most culturally advanced regions in Europe. Trade not only brought wealth to Italy but also new ideas. Almost 1,000 years after the fall of the Roman Empire, Italy became the center of the **Renaissance** [re-nuh-SAHNS]. *Renaissance* is a French word meaning "rebirth." It describes the renewed interest in learning that spread throughout Europe from the 1300s to the 1500s. This time was particularly important for the development of architecture, painting, and sculpture. Some of the world's most famous artists, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, worked during this time. Today millions of people visit Florence, Rome, and Venice to see the great art and architecture of the Renaissance.

Italy did not become a united country until 1861. It fought on the side of the Allies in World War I. In the early 1920s a dictator named Benito Mussolini took control of Italy's government. He formed an alliance with Germany, and the two countries were allies during World War II. However, Mussolini was finally overthrown in 1943, and Italy was later controlled by Allied forces. Since World War II, Italy's economy and industries have grown tremendously. Today the country is a member of NATO and the EU.

**READING CHECK: Human Systems** What role did Italy play in the Renaissance, and how does this affect its economy today?



## FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT

**Europe's Microstates** On a mountain slope in west-central Italy may be Europe's oldest country. The people of San Marino trace their country's history back to the A.D. 300s. At that time a small group of Christians came to the area. There they found a safe place to live and practice their religion. Mountains and wise choices of allies have isolated and protected the country since then.

Today San Marino is surrounded by Italy. It is one of the world's smallest countries—just 24 square miles (61 sq km) in area. In Europe just Monaco in southern France and Vatican City in Rome are smaller. These countries are so small that we call them **microstates**. A number of other tiny countries are also found in Europe. Andorra lies in the Pyrenees between Spain and France. Liechtenstein (LIKT-uhn-shtyn) is located in the Alps between Austria and Switzerland. Malta is a small island country between Italy and Africa.

These countries have survived for a variety of reasons, such as physical isolation and international treaties. They have different kinds of governments, although all but Vatican City have elected legislatures. Vatican City is all that is left of the old Papal States. The Papal States occupied much of central Italy from A.D. 754 to 1870. The pope heads Vatican City's government as well as the Roman Catholic Church. Church officials elect the pope. He then rules with absolute authority for the rest of his life.

Tourism and trade are important to the economies of most of

*Independent since 1929, Vatican City is the world's smallest country at just 109 acres (44 ha). About 870 people live in Vatican City, home to extensive museums, famous works of art, banks, a post office, and a radio station.*

### Vatican Radio

Vatican Radio broadcasts the pope's messages in more than 40 languages to countries around the world.

### Vatican Museums

### Vatican Gardens

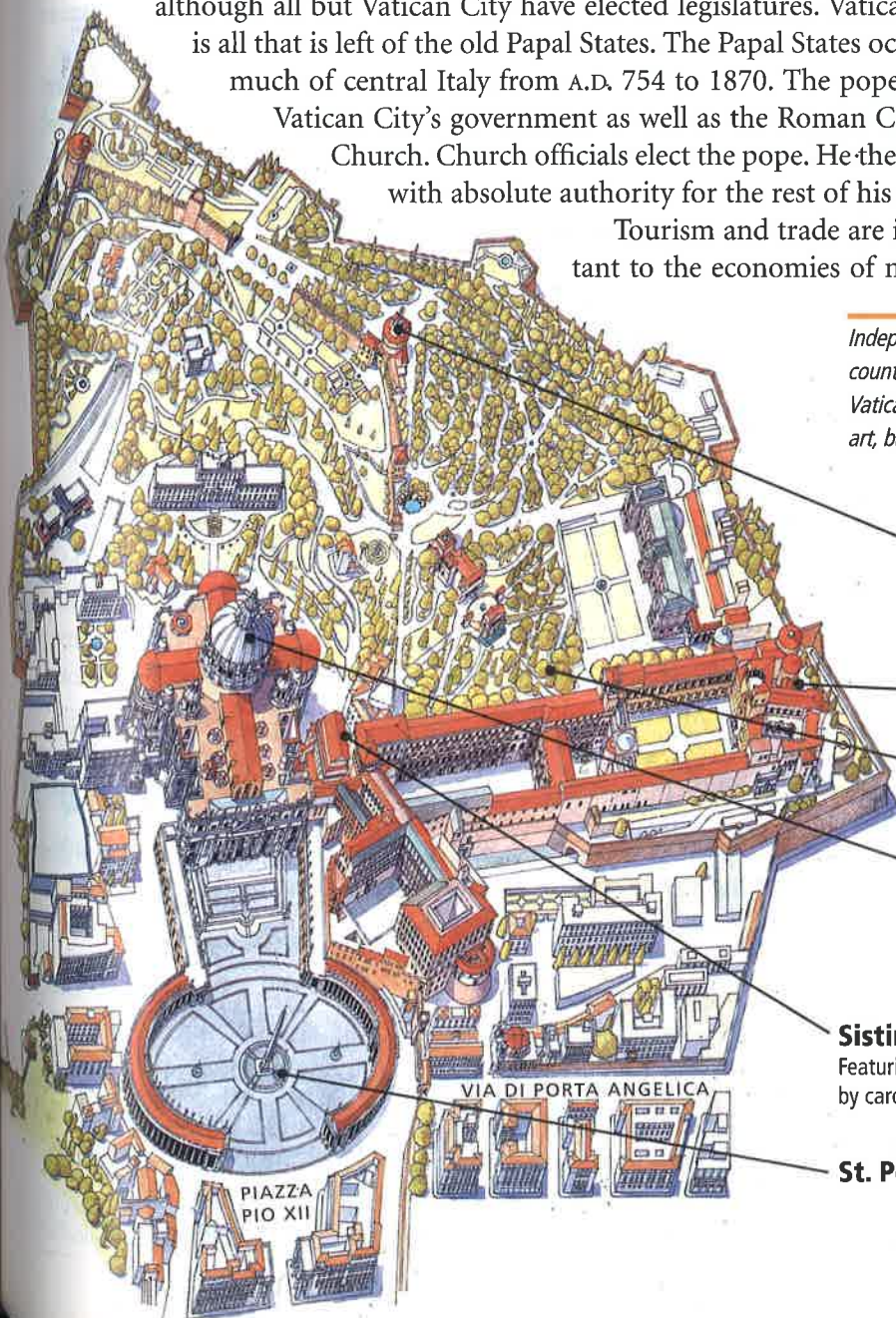
### St. Peter's Basilica

One of the largest churches in the world, St. Peter's is also one of Catholicism's most sacred shrines, drawing pilgrims and tourists from around the world.

### Sistine Chapel

Featuring paintings by Michelangelo, the Sistine Chapel is used by cardinals when they meet to select a new pope.

### St. Peter's Square



the microstates. Low taxes have attracted foreign citizens and businesses. Malta is Europe's only island microstate. It has limited freshwater and other natural resources. However, many tourists visit the country, which has some of the oldest stone temples in the world.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How have Europe's microstates managed to survive until modern times?

**People and Culture** Most people in Italy are Roman Catholic and speak Italian. Some people in the northern part of the country also speak French, German, or Slovene.

Much of modern Italian culture was first developed during the Renaissance. Italian food may be the most famous part of this culture. Delicious sauces, pastas, sausages, and pastries can be found cooking in almost every Italian home. Many of those foods come from recipes first used by Italian chefs in the 1400s. More modern Italian foods, such as pizza, have also become popular around the world.

Italian daily life is similar to that in other Mediterranean countries. The main meal is in the middle of the day. Afterwards some people rest a while before returning to work. Italians often spend evenings with their friends and family, eating and discussing the latest news.

Central Italy is the country's political and cultural center. There you will find Rome, Italy's capital and largest city. The city has spread out along the banks of the Tiber River. Ruins of ancient Roman buildings still stand there. Among the most famous are the Colosseum and the Forum.

The endurance of Rome's historical buildings stands in contrast to the endurance of its many governments. In fact, Italy has had more than 50 governments since the end of World War II. Some have lasted just a few months. They have been so unstable partly because many political parties are represented in the country's parliament. Since none has a majority, parties must join to form what are called coalition governments. These temporary alliances usually do not last long. Still, Italy has a strong democracy, and its people have many freedoms. These advantages have helped the country make great economic progress in the last half century.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* Why has Italy had many different governments since World War II?



## Italy Today

Italy is a modern developed country. Its GDP is similar to that of France and Great Britain. Italy produces agricultural and manufactured products that are sold around the world. The most famous of these products are probably Italian automobiles, designer clothes, and fine food.

**North and South** Italy has two main economic regions. The north is rich and industrial. The south is poorer and more agricultural. The south is known as the Mezzogiorno (MET-soh-gee-OR-noh), which means “midday” and refers to the area’s bright sunshine. The dividing line between the two regions lies just south of Rome.

In the north are the large industrial cities of Milan, Genoa, and Turin and the rich farmlands of the Po River valley. Fertile soils make the Po Valley the “breadbasket” of Italy. To the east and south of the valley are other rapidly developing cities. These cities include Bologna (boh-LOH-nyah), Florence, Trieste (tree-ES-tay), and Venice.

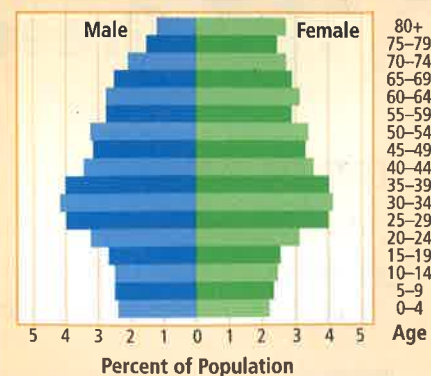
Southern Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia are drier and poorer. They have high poverty and unemployment rates. The south produces farm products such as olives, citrus fruits, and grapes. However, it lags far behind the north in developing a modern economy. Soil erosion and deforestation have long troubled the area. The Italian government and the EU give aid to this region. Still, the economy there has not advanced significantly. Naples is southern Italy’s largest city.

**Issues and Challenges** Developing southern Italy’s economy remains a challenge. Another issue is the country’s aging population. Italy has one of the lowest birthrates in the world. As a result, Italy’s population is becoming older. This means that there are fewer young workers to replace older workers as they retire. Most of Italy’s population growth is from immigration.

Pollution threatens not only Italy’s future but also its past. Heavy traffic, smog, and wear and tear have damaged many historical monuments. Neglect has also taken its toll on some of Italy’s cultural sites. The government has recognized the problem and is taking steps to protect and preserve important monuments. For example, Rome now limits the number of trucks that are allowed to drive through its historic center.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* What are three important challenges facing Italy?

**Italy’s Population, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base

**INTERPRETING THE GRAPH** In 2000 Italy’s rate of natural increase was  $-0.1$  percent, and the country’s population was expected to shrink in the coming years. Based on the graph, in about how many years will Italy face the challenge of supporting large numbers of retirees?



## Review

**Identify**  
Renaissance

**Define**  
microstates

**Working with Sketch Maps** On the map that you created in Section 1, label Italy, Sicily, Sardinia, Alps, Rome, Florence, Genoa, Venice, Milan, Turin, Po River, Bologna, Trieste, and Naples. Where is the seat of the Roman Catholic Church?

### Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What great empire once ruled the Mediterranean from Italy? How is its influence seen in European culture today?
- Environment and Society** What importance does the Po River valley have to Italy?

### Critical Thinking

- Comparing** How are northern Italy and southern Italy different economically?
- Identifying Cause and Effect** How might trade among Italian cities during the Middle Ages have spurred the Renaissance?

**Go! hrw.com** **Homework Practice Online**  
Keyword: SW3 HP16

### Organizing What You Know

- Create a time line like the one shown below. On your time line, list important years, periods, and events in the history of Italy.

